

WE CLAIM

1. A method for managing peer to peer traffic, the method comprising: identifying a peer to peer request; and in response providing at least one address of a peer to peer server within a cluster that is adapted to service peer to peer requests.
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2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the stage of providing involves providing contact information of multiple peer to peer servers, whereas at least two peer to peer servers belong to a cluster.
3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising caching, at the cluster, at least one peer to peer file and providing the at least one cached peer to peer file to a user.
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4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the caching involves applying a hash function.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the stage of providing comprises checking if the requested file is also stored outside the cluster.
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6. The method according to claim 1 further comprises a stage of providing contact information of possible file sources.
7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the provided contact information of possible file sources is responsive to at least one user parameter.
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8. The method according to claim 6 wherein the provided contact information of possible file sources is responsive to at least one file source parameter or path parameter.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising caching peer to peer files regardless of a request to retrieve a peer to peer file.
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10. The method according to claim 1 further comprising providing an encrypted file to the user.
11. A system for managing peer to peer traffic, the system comprises: a cluster of peer to peer servers; and a first device adapted to identify a peer to peer request and to provide at least one address of a peer to peer server within the cluster.
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12. The system according to claim 11 first device provides contact information of multiple peer to peer servers, whereas at least two peer to peer servers belong to the cluster.
13. The system according to claim 11 wherein the cluster comprises multiple caching units.

14. The system according to claim 11 wherein at least one peer to peer server of the cluster determines a location of a file by applying a hash function.

15. The system according to claim 11 wherein at least one peer to peer server of the cluster checks if a requested file is also stored outside the cluster.

5 16. The system according to claim 11 wherein at least one peer to peer server of the cluster provides contact information of possible file sources.

17. The system according to claim 16 wherein the provided contact information of possible file sources is responsive to at least one user parameter.

10 18. The system according to claim 16 wherein the provided contact information of possible file sources is responsive to at least one file source parameter or path parameter.

19. The system of claim 11 wherein the cluster caches peer to peer files regardless of a request to retrieve a peer to peer file.

20. The system according to claim 11 wherein at least one peer to peer server is 15 adapted to provide an encrypted file to the user.

21. The system according to claim 11 wherein the cluster is located within a network operational center.

22. A method for managing peer to peer traffic, the method comprising: providing a cache that is adapted to service peer to peer requests from a first group of users; 20 monitoring peer to peer traffic between at least one other group of users; and selectively caching at the cache at least a portion of the monitored peer to peer traffic.

23. A method for managing requests to receive a file, the method comprising: identifying a request to receive a file over a network; and in response providing at least one address of a server within a cluster that is adapted to service requests to receive a 25 file.

24. The method according to claim 23 wherein the cluster is adapted to operate as a web cache.

25. The method according to claim 23 wherein the file is provided in an encrypted manner.

30 26. The method according to claim 23 wherein the providing include providing multiple file portions.

27. The method according to claim 23 wherein the cluster is adapted to store file portions.

28. The method according to claim 23 wherein the request is a peer to peer request.

29. The method according to claim 23 further comprising performing load balancing between members of the cluster.

30. A system for managing traffic, the system comprises: a cluster of servers; and a first device adapted to identify a request to receive a file over a network and to provide 5 at least one address of a server within the cluster.

31. The system according to claim 30 wherein the cluster is adapted to operate as a web cache.

32. The system according to claim 30 wherein the system provides a requested file in an encrypted manner.

10 33. The system according to claim 30 wherein the system is adapted to provide multiple file portions.

34. The system according to claim 30 wherein the cluster is adapted to store file portions.

15 35. The system according to claim 30 wherein the system is adapted to service peer to peer requests.

36. The system according to claim 30 further comprising a load balancer.